Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 13 through 20 with the following amended paragraph:

The control device may comprise a processor constructed and arranged to construct a service matrix having integer entries in units of the link rate and having row and column sums equal to ~~said plurality~~ the number of ports from each input sector and the ports of each output sector such that in said units of the internal link rate, each of said integer entries exceeds the corresponding entry in a desired traffic matrix, said matrix having elements formed by the said desired offered load at the switch inputs on the basis of each input and output port; and to decompose the service matrix into its constituent permutations thereby to control said links using said permutations.

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 9 through 16 with the following amended paragraph:

The providing step may comprise constructing a service matrix having integer entries in units of the internal link rate and having row and column sums equal to ~~said plurality~~ the number of ports from each input sector and the ports of each output sector such that, in said units of the internal link rate, each of said integer entries exceeds the corresponding entry in a desired traffic matrix, said desired traffic matrix having elements formed by the said desired offered load at the switch input ports on the basis of each input port and output port; decomposing the service matrix into its constituent permutations and controlling said links using said permutations.